

## **JIM WATERS SCHOLARSHIP**

Jim Waters is one of the most respected and recognizable educators in Adrian history.

A 1978 Adrian High graduate, Jim Waters attended Adrian College, where he played football and ran track. After graduating from Adrian College, Jim worked at Springbrook Middle School as a science teacher and physical education instructor. "Science is everything, and everything is science," is what Mr. Waters used to tell his students.

During his storied teaching career, he also made his mark as a highly respected coach, helping lead Maple athletics teams for 35 years, covering 80 sports seasons. He retired as the Head Track & Field Coach in 2019. His coaching career not only included track, but also encapsulated 15 years of coaching football and 30 years of coaching wrestling.

During his storied career, Coach Waters was a practitioner of "educational athletics," emphasizing that academics always came first. He exemplified this mantra through weekly grade checks, team study halls, and even tutored athletes himself. Coach Waters also used sports as a platform to teach life lessons, stressing that the "relentless determination" he was teaching for competition was also applicable to real life.

Upon his retirement, several of Waters' past students and athletes came together to honor their former teacher and coach. Many of these Maple alums have gone on to careers in professional fields, including education, and still cite Jim Waters as one of the most important figures of their youth. Together, this group of Maple alums cast the vision, raised the money, and created the Jim Waters Scholarship.

This \$20,000 scholarship is awarded annually to a student in need from Adrian High School who has been accepted by a four-year college or university, or a two-year community college or similar institution. In addition to academic excellence, the student must have shown a strong work ethic and positive attitude combined with competitiveness and outstanding leadership qualities.

## **JIM WATERS SCHOLARSHIP**

### **AWARDS BY STUDENT APPLICATION**

The RBW Foundation will award one (1) **\$20,000** scholarship each year to a needy person who attended Adrian High School and who has been accepted by, and will be attending a four-year college or university (the “University”) or a two-year community college or similar institution (“Community College”). In order to be considered for this scholarship, the recipient must meet the criteria listed below. It is anticipated that the scholarship will be awarded according to the following schedule:

- \$5,000 for the recipient’s **first** year of attendance at the University or Community College (divided into two payments of \$2,500 per semester);
- \$5,000 for the recipient’s **second** year of attendance at the University or Community College (divided into two payments of \$2,500 per semester);
- \$5,000 for the recipient’s **third** year of attendance at the University (divided into two payments of \$2,500 per semester) or if the recipient attended a Community College and transfers to a University then at the beginning of this recipient’s first year at the University;
- \$5,000 for the recipient’s **fourth** year of attendance at the University (divided into two payments of \$2,500 per semester) or if the recipient attended a Community College and transfers to a University then at the beginning of this recipient’s second year at the University.

***Criteria for Award:*** This student must have attended Adrian High School. This student must have shown a strong work ethic and a positive attitude, coupled with outstanding leadership qualities for his or her school. The student must have demonstrated good citizenship while in school. The student must have participated in extracurricular school activities including clubs, athletics, and/or performed other activities such as community service or volunteer work.

This is not an athletic scholarship and student-athletes who have received athletic scholarships are not eligible for this award. Applicants must fill out the attached form along with all required materials, and return them to **Dr. Scott Westfall**, postmarked no later than **Friday, April 11, 2025**.

***Ongoing Eligibility:*** In order to continue eligibility for the scholarship, the recipient must be enrolled as a full-time college student (at least **12 credit hours** per semester) and maintain a **2.5** cumulative college grade point average. If the recipient fails to meet these requirements during any semester, he or she forfeits his or her eligibility for the following year(s).

**JIM WATERS SCHOLARSHIP  
APPLICATION FORM  
(For Fall 2025 Semester)**

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FIRST NAME

MIDDLE NAME

LAST NAME

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HOME MAILING ADDRESS

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EMAIL ADDRESS

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TELEPHONE NUMBER

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NAME OF THE COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY WHERE YOU HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED

Each application must include the following:

- 1) The Jim Waters Scholarship Application Form (this completed page)
- 2) Current high school transcript
- 3) College acceptance letter from the institution to which you plan to attend
- 4) Two (2) letters of recommendation from faculty, administration, or a responsible community member (not related to the applicant). Letters should speak on behalf of the applicant's characteristics mentioned under *Criteria for Award* on the previous page.
- 5) A one-page activity resume outlining the applicant's extracurricular activities along with any community service they have performed.
- 6) Essay from the applicant (3-4 pgs. double spaced). Choose **one** of the following questions:
  - a. How has growing up in the Adrian community shaped who you are as a person?
  - b. Explain a life-changing moment that shaped who you are today. What did you learn from this experience?
  - c. Describe a time when you strongly disagreed with someone about an idea or an issue. How did you communicate with this person? What did you learn from this experience?
  - d. Looking ahead, where do you see yourself in 10 years *and* why?

All items must be submitted together and postmarked no later than **Friday, April 11, 2025**. The submission address is below:

**Dr. Scott Westfall  
c/o Adrian College Business Dept.  
110 South Madison St.  
Adrian, MI 49221**

*The scholarship selection committee will make a decision and the winner will be announced at the Adrian High School Honors Night in late May.*